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DEXTER GENEALOGY:

BEING A

RECORD OF THE FAMILIES

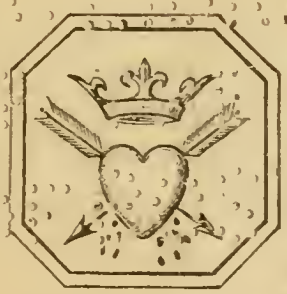
DESCENDED FROM

REV. GREGORY DEXTER;

WITH

NOTES AND BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

OF EACH PARENT.



"Remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations.—DEUT. XXXII —7.

BY S. C. NEWMAN, A. M.

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NOTE ERRATUM.—In the sketch of Colonel Edward Dexter, on page 61, the author slightly misunderstood the facts in relation to General La Fayette. Some of the principal *officers* of General La Fayette were quartered at Mr. Dexter's mother's homestead; but the General himself was quartered in Providence. In the course of the campaign, Colonel Dexter frequently saw General La Fayette, and had interviews with him, as the agent of his mother and others.

INTRODUCTION.

To rescue from oblivion, and protect the remembrance of worthy men, has ever been regarded as a pious and honorable feature in the progressive history of civilization. Thinly stationed along the deep vista of the past, may be dimly seen a class of men, occupying no sonorous niche in the temple of fame, but whose scrutinizing lives have been devoted to an exploration of the biography, annals and minutiæ of antecedent times, and thus constantly evolving historic material. These are the Antiquarians of the world; and without them, the historian would find but little on which to base his hopes of success.

To preserve its own Genealogy, is the easy and filial duty of every family; but the restoration of neglected Genealogy falls within the scope of the antiquarian.

Although countenanced by various examples in Scripture, and to a limited extent attended to by most nations of the earth, it is not till a very modern period that Genealogy has received any general attention; but passing, as the public mind now is, from an age of Fiction into one of History and other solid attainments, it very naturally takes Genealogy with it as an agreeable department of Historic Science.

Rev. Gregory Dexter, the progenitor of the race delineated in this little volume, was no ordinary man; but a more detailed account of him will be found in the biographical sketch accompanying the record of his family. The descendants of Mr. Dexter have been quite numerous, and some of them have been benefactors to the public. To Ebenezer K., in the sixth generation, the City of Providence is indebted for its noble institution for its unfortunate poor, "the Dexter Asylum." Henry, in the eighth generation, is an eminent sculptor. Several of them have adorned the learned professions and elegant walks of life; and with rare exceptions, the whole have been a respectable, industrious and thrifty people. In 1857, the author prepared and printed a family chart of this race, having several advantages that cannot be transferred to a book, under the patronage of Lewis Dexter, jr., Esq., of Providence, and of whom copies can be obtained.

These families, embracing some seven hundred names, have been rescued from decaying scraps, fading memorials, tombstones and mementos of the past, and permanently enrolled in the "Great Book of Monumental Genealogy," of more than a hundred thousand names, now being prepared by the author, and to be forever retained as a fountain of family records in the State Archives of Rhode Island. And it is earnestly hoped that each coming family in the future, will keep itself duly registered; and each member thereof endeavor to imitate the worthy example of their ancestral race; nor ever forget to discharge the duties they owe to themselves, their God, and their country.

There were other families of Dexters, all originating in the same common ancestry, in England, who came to New England during the seventeenth century; one of whom was Richard Dexter, a cousin of Gregory, who arrived in Boston, in 1641, from whom descended Hon. Samuel Dexter, the eminent lawyer, and many others scattered over the country; and in some instances it has been no small labor to avoid confusion in this Genealogy; but, in the accomplishment of the task, the author has relied upon no sources of information but such as bear the marks of authenticity. Four of these descendants, like their venerable ancestor, lived to the age of ninety years, and a much larger number

from seventy to eighty years; and some of them left detached fragments, in writing, of their particular branches: but to the untarnished memory of Col. Edward Dexter, in the fifth generation, now living in his 90th year; to Marvin A. Dexter, Esq., of Killingly, Ct.; to the intelligent widow of John B. Dexter, of Providence, in the seventh generation; to those rich mines of antiquarian lore, Judge Staples and Dexter Thurber, Esq., and many others, the author owes his acknowledgments for special favors.

This volume has been executed under the patronage of the venerable Col. Edward Dexter, now living as the oldest member of the race, and in his 90th year, an account of whom will be found in its proper place in the fifth generation.

For the better understanding of the tables, the reader is referred to the Key.

KEY TO FAMILY TABLES.

A brace connects husbands with wives.

A dash after the HUSBAND shows him to be son of the next name, and so back through his lineage. A dash after the WIFE leads to her father. The names that next follow are their children, and to a child, the star means died without issue, and dash means no issue known to have existed; and a male name on line with a female child, in brackets, shows whose wife she became.

When it is here said that a person was born in a town which at the date had no corporate existence, it is meant that said birth was in that part of the old town from which the town WRITTEN was afterwards TAKEN—thus, Smithfield was not a town till 1730, yet we have recorded the birth of the children of John Dexter, son of Stephen, at Smithfield, 1698, because he lived at the Lime Rocks, NOW KNOWN as Smithfield, and this rule may be considered as settling similar cases.

NOTE.—The armorial seal of Gregory Dexter may be seen on the title page.

DEXTER GENEALOGY.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
Rev. Gregory Dexter, ... Abigail— Fuller, ..	Olney, Northampton Co., England,	1610
Stephen,	Providence, R. I.,	1647
James,	Providence, R. I.,	1650
John,	Providence, R. I.,	1652
Abigail, ... [James Angell, son of Thomas.]	Providence, R. I.,	1655
Peleg,	Providence, R. I.,	1658

Rev. Gregory Dexter was born at Olney, Northampton County, England, A. D. 1610. He early went to London, and became a printer; and, in connection with a gentleman by the name of Coleman, kept a Stationer's establishment at London. Mr. Dexter was con-

nected with the Baptist ministry at London, and was the friend and transatlantic correspondent of Roger Williams. When, in 1643, Roger Williams went to England to procure the first Charter for the infant Colony, he took with him the manuscript of his Dictionary of the Indian Language, and, on the voyage, arranged it for being printed; and in 1643, Mr. Dexter printed the first edition of it at London,—a reprint of which now constitutes the first volume of the publications of the Rhode Island Historical Society. On the return of Roger Williams with the Charter, in 1644, Mr. Dexter sold out his establishment at London, and came with his friend Williams to try his fortunes in the New World. Among the manuscript papers of President Stiles, of Yale College, as copied into Thomas's History of Printing, occurs the following passage:—"Mr. Dexter quitted printing, left his native country, and joined Williams at Providence, where he became a distinguished character in the Colony. He was one of the parties named in the Charter; [the second Charter, by Charles II., in 1663,] and for a number of years was one of the Assistants, under the

authority granted in that Charter. He was one of the Town Clerks of Providence; wrote an uncommonly good hand; possessed handsome talents, and had been well educated. From him decended the respectable family of Dexters in Rhode Island."

In addition to this testimony of Dr. Stiles, it may be remarked that Mr. Dexter held various other civil offices under the institutions of the young but growing community, as may be seen by examining the archives of the Town and Colony; and as his character and abilities, his knowledge of Latin and his general literary attainments, fitted him for so many positions where in the general paucity of mental cultivation he was so much needed, he was most emphatically a public man. Nor were his public labors confined to civil life. He was the fourth Pastor of the First Baptist Church in Providence, having been called to succeed Rev. Mr. Wickenden, about 1650. While in this position, amid all his other duties, he won the name of an effective, able and successful preacher; the evidences of which, for many y[illegible]s, were witnessed in the baptismal burials [illegible]heir humble Jordan—the consecrated waves

of the Mooshassick.* Nor did he derive his temporal support from ministerial salaries or official emoluments, (things of later adoption,) but drew his sustenance from the cultivation of his lands, and thus provided for his household and deeds of charity ; and, in the absence of schools, he educated his children at home, and taught them to labor, and rendered them respectable citizens of the Colony.

Mr. Dexter was the first *accomplished* printer that came to this country; and although he did not pursue it here as a profession, yet for several years he made occasional visits to the then village of Boston, to assist Mr. Samuel Greene, in some printing needed at that place and at the young college at Cambridge ; and Mr. Dexter printed with his own hands the first Almanac for the meridian of Rhode Island.

This FOREFATHER in our colony lived to be over ninety years of age, enjoying, for that long period the blessings of health and mental

* MOOSHASSICK—the perpetuated Indian name of the river which empties into the cove or basin at the north part of Providence. It is now a mere walled canal ; but two centuries ago, the scenery of its banks was regarded as "sacredly romantic."

soundness; and he enjoyed the satisfaction of witnessing his descendants, down to his great-grand-children, growing up around him in virtue and respectability. It was his constant habit, through life, to connect with all his transactions, a recognition of an overruling Divine Providence: thus, by an occurrence in King Phillip's war, when Providence was burned by the Indians, two of his grand-children were rendered orphans; and in an instrument drawn by his own hand, in 1695, when he was eighty-five years old, making a property provision for these two orphans, [Peleg and Isabel] he says:—"By the good Providence of God, I have thus provided for the two children of my deceased son, James," &c.; and in the same document he indicates the desired spot of his burial,—"Should I and my wife dye in this towne." Here he clearly indicates that he was not so decrepit as to be confined at home, but might "dye" in some other place. It is authentically recorded by a subsequent Pastor of his Church, that Mr. Dexter never laughed in his life, and was rarely known to smile; yet he was always a very pleasant, friendly and agreeable man;

and his proverbial candor and soundness rendered him a center of attraction (especially after the death of Roger Williams) in those stormy and difficult periods in the civil, political and religious history of our precarious Colony, when so much and so frequent wholesome counsel and advice were so greatly needed; and in his life and daily walk he also adorned all the minor social qualities of a substantial civilization.

Mr. Dexter died in the year 1700, lamented throughout the Colony, and was interred in his private burying ground, where he had desired,—a short distance easterly from the present junction of North Main and Benefit streets, [Constitution Hill,] and in a lot now [1857] belonging to the heirs of the late Ezekiel Burr. This was his "home lot" in the ancient divisions of the town;—his first house was a log house, and was destroyed by the Indians, in 1676; his second was rebuilt in better style, and occupied a part of the site of the house now occupied by William Rea, and was demolished, to give place to another, about the year 1800.

Such was the character of the Rev. Gregory

Dexter; such was his home through his long earthly pilgrimage, and such was his final resting place; yet, much as he was beloved and respected in his life and at his death, through the mutations of time "not a stone tells where he lies!" Ye living descendants of this venerable Patriarch! shall this nameless grave much longer thus remain?

[*Extract from Rev. Gregory Dexter to Sir Henry Vane, of England.*]

SIR:—Although we are grieved at your late retirement from the helm of public affairs, yet we rejoice to reap the sweet fruits of your rest, in your pious and loving lines, most seasonably sent us. Thus the sun, when he retires his brightness from the world, yet, from under the very clouds, we perceive his presence and enjoy some light and heat and sweet refreshing. * * * * * * * When we are gone, and our children and posterity after us shall read in our records your pious and favorable letters, and loving kindness to us, and this our answer and real endeavor after peace and righteousness, &c., &c.

[*Dated at Providence, August* 27, 1654.]

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
STEPHEN DEXTER—Gregory,	Providence, R. I.,	1647
MARY— Arnold,	Providence, R. I.,	1648
John,	Providence, R. I.,	1670

STEPHEN DEXTER, oldest son of Rev. Gregory Dexter, was settled on land provided by his father, at what is now known as the Lime Rocks, in Smithfield. He built a house on the exact spot of the house now occupied by Christopher C. Dexter and his sister Amey.

But little is known of his early life, other than that he was a dutiful and industrious son, adopting much of the spirit of his father. When the Indian war of 1675 broke out, he took his wife and only son [John] and fled to the "garrison house" in Providence for public safety. During the stay there, Stephen died in 1676. Of his wife, we know nothing. John, his son, will be spoken of in the proper place.

These facts are extracted from a paper written by Jonathan Dexter, born in 1739, who lived and died in a house on the same spot of his *great-grandfather*, *Stephen*, of whom we have thus spoken.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
{ JAMES DEXTER—Gregory,..	Providence, R. I.,..	1650
{ ISABEL Arnold,....	Providence, R. I.,..	
Peleg—.....	Providence, R. I.,..	1673
Isabel,.....	Providence, R. I.,..	1675

These probably died young.

THIS was the second son of Rev. Gregory Dexter. Of him very little is known. During the troubles of the Indian war, when Providence was burnt, in March, 1676, a large portion of the people were on Rhode Island for protection. The ancient records mention a few names "who stayed and went not away." Rev. Gregory Dexter, in a document of 1695, under his own signature, states that he resided at *Long Island* during this time of affliction to Providence, and that James died while he was absent—probably at the garrison house. James appears to have been of feeble health. He left a son and daughter; and in the document of his father above referred to, a provision is made for the two children, [Peleg and Isabel,] and in the same document the venerable Patriarch indicates where he desired to be buried. This is

an interesting paper, and is supposed to be the last to which he placed his signature. This paper is witnessed by *William Turpin*, the man who kept the first school for the children of ancient Providence, and to whose memory the children of the present schools of the now splendid City ought to erect a simple, but impressive monument. This document, together with *all others* that have been found during these researches, have been placed in the custody of Lewis Dexter, jr., of Providence, and measures have been taken to give them preservation among the historical archives of the State.

From some circumstances it is probable that James resided with his father, at "Dexter's Lane," now Olney Street, Constitution Hill, and that he never set up any separate establishment for himself; but in the Indian troubles was removed from his father's house to the garrison house, and there died about the time that his brother Stephen did, while his parents were away at Long Island. Of his wife we know nothing, except from the document above alluded to, we *infer* that her name was Isabel Arnold.

No descendants from his two children are known to have existed. James was born amid the religious commotion that called his father to the ministry—lived in hope, and died in *perilous* times.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
JOHN DEXTER—Gregory,	Providence, R. I.,	1652
ALICE— Smith,	Providence, R. I.,	
Stephen,	Providence, R. I.,	1689
James,	Providence, R. I.,	1691
John,	Providence, R. I.,	1692
Mary, [John Angell.]	Providence, R. I.,	1694
Abigail, [Arthur Fenner and Elisha Greene.]	Providence, R. I.,	1696
Sarah, [John Comstock.]	Providence, R. I.,	1698
Phebe, [Thomas Kelton.]	Providence, R. I.,	1700
Anna, [John Brown.]	Providence, R. I.,	1702
Alice, [William Olney.]	Providence, R. I.,	1705

MAJOR JOHN DEXTER was the third son of Rev. Gregory Dexter. He was most emphatically a *religious*, a *military* and a *business* man. He was settled on lands owned by his father, on what is now the Pawtucket turnpike, a little north of Harrington's lane, where he had a good farm, on which he lived and

died, and which is still owned by his great-grand-daughter, Anna Dexter, aged seventy years. He was married at the age of thirty-six, and had nine children. He was the principal staff and dependence of his father, in his advanced age, in matters of business; and filled acceptably several public stations, and was a man of capability, energy and responsibility. His widow afterwards married Hon. Joseph Jencks, Governor of the State of Rhode Island. His military commissions, his will and other interesting papers are in the possession of Lewis Dexter, jr., of Providence, as alluded to in the foregoing note on James. He was elected twenty-one times to the General Assembly, under the charter of Charles II.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
PELEG DEXTER,—Gregory,	Providence, R. I.,	1658
John,—	Providence, R. I.,	
Gideon,—	Providence, R. I.,	
James,—	Providence, R. I.,	
Barzillai,—	Providence, R. I.,	

It has always been supposed that these four sons died young, and left no issue.

PELEG DEXTER was the fourth and youngest son of Rev. Gregory Dexter. He had four sons who lived to some age, but appear to have left no issue. The paper of Jonathan, of 1739, alluded to in note of Stephen, committed a mistake in supposing that the sons of John were descendants of this Peleg. More careful investigations have discovered the mistake. History and tradition have furnished nothing of Peleg except that he lived near the house of his father, and that Rev. Gregory Dexter died at the house of his son Peleg in the year 1700. Rev. Gregory Dexter's physical and mental strength were wonderfully continued to a great age [90 years] yet it is not improbable that he needed those attentions in his last year which could be best furnished

in the house of one of his dutiful sons ; and as Peleg had but four sons to fill his house, while John had nine children [none then married], and as the venerable Patriarch would naturally desire to spend his few remaining days as near as possible to where he had spent his life, we can easily discover a propriety in his being removed [after the recent death of his wife] to the house of Peleg, near his own, instead of to the house of John, some distance up the turnpike. Here ended the days of this *Fore-father of Rhode Island*, and although Peleg has left no descendents to mingle in the posterity of his Father, yet the kindness and dutiful attentions unremittingly bestowed upon his declining Sire, should embalm his memory in the grateful remembrance of them all.

From this point we record the families in *two grand divisions*, viz: First, all the families from Stephen of 1647, and, second, all the families from John of 1652. *Note.*—In numbering or titleing the generation in this record, we mean the generation which the *Parent* occupies—his children will be in the next.

First Grand Division—being all the families descended from STEPHEN *of* 1647.

[THIRD GENERATION.]

FAMILIES.		WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
JOHN DEXTER—	Stephen--- Gregory	Providence, R. I.,	1670
MARY—	Field,	Providence, R. I.,	1676
Naomi,	[Thomas Whipple,]	Smithfield, R. I.,	1698
Mary,	[Noah Whipple,]	Smithfield, R. I.,	1699
John,		Smithfield, R. I.,	1701
Stephen		Smithfield, R. I.,	1703
Jeremiah, —	[Seettled at Walpole.]	Smithfield, R. I.,	1705
Sarah,	[Solomon Smith,]	Smithfield, R. I.,	1707
Lydia,	[Joseph Smith,]	Smithfield, R. I.,	1709
William,*	[Died young,]	Smithfield, R. I.,	1711
Jonathan,*	[Died young,]	Smithfield, R. I.,	1713
Abigail,	[Wm. Smith and his cousin Wm. Smith--Daniel.]	Smithfield, R. I.,	1715

THIS youth became an orphan during King Phillip's War, his parents having died at the garrison house in Providence. After the war was passed, he returned to the land of his father at the Lime Rock. The house had been destroyed by the Indians, and all the improvements had vanished except the orchard. He made a sort of cave in the ground that answered the purpose of a house in the absence of a

better, and commenced labor on his land. With a few years diligence and prudence in this bachelor-cave-style of living, he found himself able to build a house, and had got his land in more thriving condition. He then married Mary Field and had ten children, as seen in the record. In after life he lost his wife—sold his farm to his son John [commonly called Socknoset John] and removed into Providence. At Providence he married a second wife, whose name was Mary Mason. He built a house on the spot now occupied by Number Eighty-seven North Main street, and there he lived and died; and his ashes now repose on the west side of the old North burying ground, between those of his two Marys. He was an industrious and energetic man, and a plain but good citizen.

[FOURTH GENERATION.]

FAMILIES.		WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
JOHN DEXTER—	John--Stephen--Gregory--	Smithfield, R. I.,	1701
MARY—	Browne,	Providence, R. I.,	1702
Anna,	[Benjamin Arnold,]	Smithfield, R. I.,	1722

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
Andrew	Smithfield, R. I.,	1723
Gideon	Smithfield, R. I.,	1724
Mary, [Thomas Spear,]	Smithfield, R. I.,	1725
Lydia, [Barzillai Fisher,]	Smithfield, R. I.,	1727
William,	Smithfield, R. I.,	1728
Phebe, [Resolved Irons]	Smithfield, R. I.,	1730
Waitstill,	Smithfield, R. I.,	1733
Jonathan,	Smithfield, R. I.,	1739
Sarah, [Abraham Arnold,]	Smithfield, R. I.,	1741

This man was known through a considerable portion of his life as "Socknoset John;" but why this name was attached to him, I have not been able to learn. On the map of Cranston, R. I., there is a spot marked by this name—the place was once an Indian town, and later down, in the Colonial Records, it is alluded to as the "Socknoset Farm." This John lived seventy-nine years at and died in the house where he was born, at the Lime Rocks, as stated in a paper left by his son Jonathan. It is fair to conclude that he was a farmer, though nothing on that point was mentioned by his son Jonathan who left a brief account of this line.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
STEPHEN DEXTER—John—Stephen—Gregory	Smithfield, R. I.,	1703
MAHETABEL—Eb'r Knight	Providence, R. I.,	1704
Knight,	Providence, R. I.,	1734
Naomi, [Joseph Kinnicutt]	Providence, R. I.,	1736

THIS man lived in Providence, and probably was a farmer on the outskirts of the Village. He is called on the records, "Stephen Dexter, jr.," because there were two of the same time. See Stephen—John on page 17, who was half cousin to him. Both were sons of Johns and the term junior was used to designate this one, who was the youngest of the two. It is said that he and his wife's father, Dea. Knight, were concerned together in a store or "trading house." As Dea. Knight was a man of considerable reputation, it is fair to presume that this Stephen was of good character, especially as nothing has come down from those times against him.

[FIFTH GENERATION.]

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
ANDREW DEXTER—John—John--Stephen--Gregory,	Smithfield, R. I.,	1723
Waterman,	Smithfield, R. I.,	1753
Benjamin,	Smithfield, R. I.	1755

LITTLE or nothing has been preserved of this man, other than that he was a farmer.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
GIDEON DEXTER—John--John--Stephen--Gregory.	Smithfield, R. I.,	1724
Stephen,—	Smithfield, R. I.,	1750
David,—	Smithfield, R. I.,	1753

VERY little is known of him. His son David commanded a military company in the American Revolution; but nothing has been found of any further descent from this line.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
WILLIAM DEXTER—John--John--Stephen--Gregory,	Smithfield, R. I.,	1728
PHEBE— John Warner	Warwick, R. I.,	1730
Samuel,	Smithfield, R. I.,	1757
Nathan,	Smithfield, R. I.,	1759
Hannah, [Job Arnold.]	Smithfield, R. I.,	1761
Anna, [Silas Arnold.]	Smithfield, R. I.,	1763
John,	Smithfield, R. I.,	1765
William,	Smithfield, R. I.,	1767

THIS William Dexter owned and lived on the farm near the Lime Rocks in Smithfield, where Christopher and his sister Amey Dexter now live. He was an active capable man, and was concerned in the lime business. The farm fell to his son Nathan.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN	Yr. birth.
JONATHAN DEXTER—John--John--Stephen--Gregory,	Smithfield, R. I.,	1739
ALICE— Col. Step. Lowe	Warwick, R. I.,	1741
Mary, [Benj.G. Dexter--James--James.]	Smithfield, R. I.,	1762
Joseph,	Smithfield, R. I.,	1764
Philip,	Smithfield, R. I.,	1766

Elizabeth,. . [Thomas Carpenter.] . .Smithfield, R. I.,. .1768
Christopher,. . . . . .Smithfield, R. I.,. .1770
Abigail. . . . . [Unmarried.] . . . . Smithfield, R. I.,. .1772
Alice,. . . .[William Carpenter.]. . . .Smithfield, R. I.,. .1774
Sarah,. . . . [Jonathan Carpenter.] . .Smithfield, R. I.,. .1776
Lydia,. . . . [Nathaniel Mowry.]. . . .Smithfield, R. I.,. .1778
John,. . . . . .Smithfield, R. I.,. .1780
Anna,. . . . . .[Sterry Jencks.]. . . .Smithfield, R. I.,. .1782

THIS man was a farmer. He resided at the Lime Rocks, and was living in 1819. He left some brief sketches of his race; and is the one alluded to on page 19 in the note on Stephen. He and his nephew William bought the farm that fell to Nathan, as mentioned in the preceding note. He appears to have been a very respectable man, and he left a smart enterprising family. His sons Joseph and Philip removed to Connecticut in early life.

KNIGHT DEXTER—Stephen-- . .Providence, R. I.,. .1734
John--Stephen--Gregory,
ANNA— Andrew Brown. .Glocester, R. I.. . .1734
PHEBE— Joseph Harris. .Providence, R. I.,. .1735
Anna,. . . . . .Providence, R. I.,. .1761

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
Susannah,	Providence, R. I.,	1763
Phebe, [Unmarried.]	Providence, R. I.,	1765
Phebe,	Providence, R. I.,	1767
Stephen,*	Providence, R. I.,	1768
Mehetabel,	Providence, R. I.,	1771
Ebenezer Knight,*	Providence, R. I.,	1773
Abigail,	Providence, R. I.,	1775

Col. Knight Dexter was an enterprising, business man, residing in Providence. In the earlier times, the section north of Constitution Hill, was the "court end of the town." Nearly all the public business was transacted in that part, and all the places of public resort were located there; but at 1750 business had began to extend eastward to the vicinity of the present Market Square, and that section of the town felt the need of a public house; but some years more passed before any one had the energy to start one. But Col. Dexter finally opened a public house in what is now North Main street, on the spot where Joseph Smith now occupies as a hotel. The experiment proved to be a popular place of public resort, and a profitable investment. Thus the "court end" began to decline, and has never

regained an equality in the march of improvement. Col. Dexter's seventh child arrived to manhood, and was the founder of the Dexter Asylum, and with him the line became extinct.

[SIXTH GENERATION.]

WATERMAN DEXTER— Andrew--John--John--Stephen--Gregory,	Smithfield,	R. I.,	1753
AMELIA—	Smithfield,	R. I.,	1760
Smith,	Cumberland,	R. I.,	1780
Andrew W.,	Cumberland,	R. I.,	1790
Benjamin,	Cumberland,	R. I.,	1795

HE lived in Cumberland—had a small farm which he cultivated; and he was also a blacksmith, and carried on that trade in connection with his farming. Col. Edward Dexter remembers him, but nothing of importance.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
BENJAMIN DEXTER—Andrew--John--John--Stephen--Gregory,	Smithfield, R. I.,	1755.
ABIGAIL—	Cumberland, R. I.,	1765
Clarasa, *[Smith Dexter, her cousin.]	Cumberland, R. I.,	1782
Weterman,	Cumberland, R. I.,	1785
Henry,*	Cumberland, R. I.,	1790
Jencks,*	Cumberland, R. I.,	1792
Benjamin,	Cumberland, R. I.,	1794

*[See Smith Dexter's family on page 36.]

THIS was a brother of the above—was a farmer at Cumberland.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
SAMUEL DEXTER—William--John--John—Stephen--Gregory,	Smithfield, R. I.,	1757
MARCY— Esec Winsor,	Smithfield, R. I.,	1758
Samuel,—	Smithfield, R. I.,	1779
Otis,* [Died young,]	Smithfield. R. I.,	1781

OF this man I have learned nothing but the record.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
NATHAN DEXTER,—William--John--John--Stephen--Gregory,	Smithfield, R. I.,	1759
NANCY,— John Warner	Smithfield, R. I.,	1760
ABIGAIL,— Caleb Winsor	Smithfield, R. I.,	1765
Nathan,—	Smithfield, R. I.,	1782
George,—	Smithfield, R. I.,	1784
John,— First wife.]	Smithfield, R. I.,	1786
Rebecca, [George Gorton,]	Smithfield, R. I.,	1787
Phebe, [Isaac Tower,]	Smithfield, R. I.,	1789

BROTHER of Samuel, above—he was a farmer at Smithfield.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth
JOHN DEXTER,—William--John--John--Stephen--Gregory,	Smithfield, R. I.,	1765
LUCINDA— James Dexter--James--John--Gregory,	Cumberland, R. I.,	176
Hiram,*	Cumberland, R. I.,	1793
Ella Ann, [Unmarried,]	Cumberland, R. I.,	1795
William James,	Providence, R. I.,	1796
John B.,	Providence, R. I.,	1800
Lucy Ann, [Unmarried,]	Providence, R. I.,	1803

THIS man was a farmer in Cumberland till about 1795, when he removed to Providence.

He was deacon of one of the churches for many years, and was a prominent and worthy citizen.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
WILLIAM DEXTER—William--John--John--Stephen--Gregory,	Smithfield, R. I.,	1767
PHEBE,— Benj. Whipple	Smithfield, R. I.,	1766
William Brown,	Smithfield, R. I.,	1792
Phebe, [Arnold Whipple,]	Providence, R. I.,	1794
Anna, [Philip Martin,]	Providence, R. I.,	1795

THIS man lived in Providence; he was a trader in company with his brother John. He died quite a young man, leaving three little children—William B., Mrs. Whipple, and Mrs. Martin.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
JOSEPH DEXTER,—Jonathan--John--John—Stephen—Gregory,	Smithfield, R. I.,	1764
MARY,— Neh. Allen [She was often called Molly.]	Cumberland, R. I.,	1763

FAMILIES.		WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
Celia,	[Ezekiel Spaulding,]	Killingly, Ct.,	1787
Abigail,	[John Fisher.]	Killingly, Ct.,	1789
Else,	[James Bates and Seth Chase,]	Killingly, Ct.,	1791
Sarah Ann,	[John Day.]	Killingly, Ct.,	1793
Mary,	[Eliott.]	Killingly, Ct.,	1795
Jonathan,		Killingly, Ct.,	1797
Eliza,	[David B. Carrrol.]	Killingly, Ct.,	1799
Harty,	[George Donelson,]	Killingly, Ct.,	1802
Marvin A.,		Killingly, Ct.,	1805

THIS man, with his brother, Philip, removed in early life to Killingly, Ct., where together they purchased a farm and reared up families. They were industrious and capable men, and good citizens of the town. They died at Killingly, leaving respectable families.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
PHILIP DEXTER,—Jonathan--John--John--Stephen--Gregory,	Smithfield, R. I.,	1766
CATHARINE,— Greene	Warwick, R. I.,	1768
JUDITH,— Williams	Pomphret, Ct.,	1767
Benjamin G.,*	Killingly, Ct.,	1789
Eliza, [Unmarried]	Killingly, Ct.,	1792
Nancy, [Unmarried.]	Killingly, Ct.,	1795
Lyman,* First wife.]	Killingly, Ct.,	1798
Jonathan,*	Killingly, Ct.,	1800
George,	Killingly, Ct.,	1802
William,] Second wife.]	Killingly, Ct.,	1806

THE same remarks as applied to his brother —above.

CHRISTOPHER DEXTER,— Jonathan--John--John--Stephen--Gregory,	Smithfield, R. I.,	1770
BETSEY,—Eb'r Whipple	Cumberland, R. I.,	1768
Anthony,	Smithfield, R. I.,	1791
Susan,	Smithfield, R. I.,	1793
Amey	Smithfield, R. I.,	1796
Mary, [Lodowick Walcott,]	Smithfield, R. I.,	1799
Betsey, [Orin Smith,]	Smithfield, R. I.,	1803
Maria,	Smithfield, R. I.,	1805
Christopher C.,*	Smithfield, R. I.,	1807
Caroline, [Christopher Kelley,]	Smithfield, R. I.,	1809

THIS man was a farmer. He lived near the Lime Rocks in Smithfield, on the original estate, first purchased by Rev. Gregory Dexter for his son Stephen. He has two children, Christopher C. and Amey, still living on the same estate.

FAMILIES.		WHERE BORN.	Yr. Birth.
JOHN DEXTER,—	Jonathan--John--John--Stephen--Gregory,	Smithfield, R. I.,	1780
MARY,—	William Hall	Uxbridge, Mass.,	1780
HANNAH,—	Dex'r Aldrich	Smithfield, R. I.,	1800
Else,	[William Carpenter,	Smithfield, R. I.,	1806
Francis,	First wife.]	Smithfield, R. I.,	1808
Adeline,		Smithfield, R. I.,	1810

NOTHING has been learned of this man other than the record, and that was obtained from Mrs. Whipple, daughter of William of 1767.

[SEVENTH GENERATION.]

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
SMITH DEXTER,—Waterman--Andrew--John--John--Stephen--Gregory,	Smithfield, R. I.,	1780
CLARASA,—Benjamin Dexter--Andrew--John--John--Stephen--Gregory,	Smithfield, R. I.,	1782
Jenckes,	Smithfield, R. I.,	1802
Anna, [Unmarried.]	Smithfield, R. I.,	1804
Henry,	Nelson, N. Y.,	1806
Jesse,	Nelson, N. Y.,	1811
Caroline, [Unmarried.]	Nelson, N. Y.,	1813

THIS was a farmer. He married and lived at Smithfield where he remained till 1805, when he removed to Nelson, N. Y., where he died. He was the father of Henry, the sculptor at Boston.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
ANDREW W. DEXTER,—Waterman--Andrew--John--John--Stephen--Gregory.	Cumberland, R. I.,	1790
Arnold,*	Cumberland, R. I.,	1823
Andrew,*	Cumberland, R. I.,	1825
Horace,*	Cumberland, R. I.,	1826
William W.,	Cumberland, R. I.,	1827
Clarisa A.,	Cumberland, R. I.,	1829
Edward A.,	Cumberland, R. I.,	1831

NOTHING known except he was a farmer at Cumberland.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
BENJAMIN DEXTER— Waterman--Andrew--John--John--Stephen--Gregory,	Cumberland, R. I.,	1795
Albert,	Cumberland, R. I.,	1830
William,	Cumberland, R. I.,	1832

NOTHING known.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
WATERMAN DEXTER— Benjamin--Andrew--John--John--Stephen--Gregory,	Cumberland, R. I.,	1785
Benjamin,*	Cumberland, R. I.,	1815

A FARMER and blacksmith at Cumberland

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
BENJAMIN DEXTER,— Benjamin--Andrew--John--John--Stephen--Gregory,	Cumberland, R. I.,	1794
ANNA,— Job Aldrich	Smithfield, R. I.,	1807

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
Henry R.,	Foster, R. I.,	1834
Benjamin Franklin,	Foster, R. I.,	1835
Andrew Jackson,	Foster, R. I.,	1836

THIS man is a blacksmith. He removed from Smithfield to Foster where he lived a few years, and then removed to the west part of Glocester, R. I., where he now lives and owns a small estate and carries on the trade of a blacksmith. He visits the village of Chepatchet but once a year, and that is at the April town meeting. I went seven miles through the woods to find him—and did find him.

FAMILIES.		WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
WILLIAM JAMES DEXTER— John--William--John--John--Stephen--Gregory,		Providence, R. I.,	1796
SARAH—	Atwood,	New York,	1806
CATHARINE,	Herbert,	North Carolina,	1812
Lucina,		Camden, Ala.,	1840
William Atwood,		Camden, Ala.,	1842
John Francis,	2d wife.]	Camden, Ala.,	1844
Charles Henry,		Camden, Ala.,	1846
Sarah,	Unmarried,]	Camden, Ala.,	1850

THIS was a son of Dea. John Dexter. He removed to Camden, Alabama. I think he was a trader.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
JOHN B. DEXTER,—John--William--John--John--Stephen--Gregory,	Providence, R. I.,	1800
SARAH— Cyrus Wood	Cambridge, Mass.,	1804
William James,	Providence, R. I.,	1833

THIS man was a prominent teacher in the public schools at Providence.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
WILLIAM BROWN DEXTER—William--William--John--John--Stephen--Gregory,	Smithfield, R. I.,	1792
SARAH— Joseph Jewett	Lisbon, Ct.,	1792
Phebe A.,	Middleville, N.Y.,	1818
Mary J., [Hamilton Parkhurst.]	Middleville, N.Y.,	1821
William H.,	Middleville, N.Y.,	1823
Louise, A., TWINS [A. Dearing.]	Middleville, N.Y.,	1826
Elizabeth A., TWINS [W. Griswold.]	Middleville, N.Y.,	1826

REMOVED in early life to Middleville, N. Y.

FAMILIES.		WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
JONATHAN DEXTER—Joseph--Jonathan--John--John--Stephen--Gregory,		Killingly, Ct.,	1797
SOPHIA,—	Israel Foot	Glastenboro, Ct.,	1800
Mary,		Killingly, Ct.,	1828
Edward,		Killingly, Ct.,	1831

THIS man resides in Killingly, Connecticut, and is a respectable farmer. He lives on some of the original estate of Joseph, as described on page 33.

FAMILIES.		WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
MARVIN A. DEXTER—Joseph--Jonathan--John--John--Stephen--Gregory,		Killingly, Ct.,	1805
MARY ANN—	John Allen	Brookline, Ct.,	1807
Abby,		Killingly, Ct.,	1831
John,		Killingly, Ct.,	1833

A farmer at Killingly, Connecticut. He is brother to the above Jonathan. They are both intelligent and worthy citizens of that town.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth
GEORGE DEXTER,—Philip--Jonathan--John--John--Stephen--Gregory,	Killingly, Ct.,	1802
CYNTHIA— Dexter Aldrich	Sutton, Mass.,	1802
Benjamin,	Killingly, Ct.,	1835

THIS is a son of the Philip of Smithfield, who with his brother Joseph early went to Killingly. This George is a respectable and wealthy farmer and resides in Killingly, Connecticut. It will be seen that he is cousin to Jonathan and Marvin, on page 40.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
WILLIAM DEXTER,—Philip--Jonathan--John--John—Stephen—Gregory,	Killingly, Ct.,	1806
EUNICE— Perez Park	Thompson, Ct.,	1809
Charles,	Killingly, Ct.,	1834
John,	Killingly, Ct.,	1837

THIS man is a farmer and resides in Killingly, Connecticut. Brother to the above.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
ANTHONY DEXTER— Christopher--Jonathan--John--John--Stephen--Gregory,	Smithfield, R. I.,	1791
MARY ANN—Benjamin Dexter--James--James--John--Gregory,	Providence, R. I.,	1791
Else, [George Brown.]	Providence, R. I.,	1817
Abby, [Kent.]	Providence, R. I.,	1819
Albert,	Providence, R. I.,	1821
Mary, [U. Umphrey.]	Providence, R. I.,	1823
Louisa, [Edward Brown.]	Providence, R. I.,	1825
Adaline, [Burrows.]	Providence, R. I.,	1827

THIS man resided in Providence. I know nothing of his life excepting that he was a seafaring man, and was son-in-law to Capt. Benjamin G. Dexter—whose family see.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
FRANCIS DEXTER—John--Jonathan--John—John--Stephen--Gregory,	Smithfield, R. I.,	1808
ANNA— John Keene	Cumberland, R. I.,	1808
John,	Smithfield, R. I.,	1838
Philip,	Smithfield, R. I.,	1840
Mary,	Smithfield, R. I.,	1842
William,	Smithfield, R. I.,	1844
Emma A.,	Smithfield, R. I.,	1846
Christopher,	Smithfield, R. I.,	1848
Anna,	Smithfield, R. I.,	1854

THIS man is a dresser tender in a cotton mill—lives at Central Falls.

[EIGHTH GENERATION.]

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr birth.
JENCKS DEXTER—Smith—Waterman--Andrew--John--John--Stephen--Gregory.	Smithfield, R. I.,	1802
John,	Killingly, Ct.,	1825
Francis,	Killingly, Ct.,	1827

A FARMER and lives at Killingly, Conn.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
HENRY DEXTER—Smith--Waterman--Andrew—John--John--Stephen--Gregory,	Nelson. N.Y.,	1806
CALISTA— Ebenezer Kelly	Killingly, Ct.,	1808
Harriet J., [James W. Mason.]	Killingly, Ct.,	1829
Anne Elizabeth,	Killingly, Ct.,	1834
Henry Alfred,*	Killingly, Ct.,	1836

THIS man is quite an eminent sculptor—he made the statue of General Warren, at the

Bunker Hill Monument. He has an office in Boston, but his residence and studio are at Cambridge, Massachusetts. He has produced some of the best pieces of art seen at Mount Auburn, and has given additional lustre to American genius. He is also a respectable portrait painter.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
JESSE DEXTER—Smith--Waterman--Andrew--John--John—Stephen--Gregory,	Nelson, N. Y.,	1811
LYDIA— Joseph Greene	Thompson, Ct.,	1810
Emma Clarissa, [Unmarried.]	Killingly, Ct.,	1842
Charles Leroy,*	Killingly, Ct.,	1843
Jane,	Killingly, Ct.,	1845
Henry,	Killingly, Ct.,	1848
Kirk,	Killingly, Ct.,	1851

THIS man is a farmer, and resides at Killingly, Connecticut.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
EDWARD A. DEXTER,— Andrew W.--Waterman--Andrew--John--John--Stephen--Gregory,	Cumberland, R. I.,	1831
JULIA,— John Wells	Upton, Mass.	1838
Andrew Waterman,	Providence, R. I.,	1857

THIS man is a machinist and resides at Providence, Rhode Island.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
WM. JAMES DEXTER— John B--John--William-John—John--Stephen--Gregory,	Providence, R. I.,	1833
ABBY B., [Alfred Potter.]	Providence, R. I.,	1837

[No children—January, 1858.]

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
WM. HENRY DEXTER,— William B.--William--William—John--John--Stephen--Gregory,	Middleville. N. Y.,	1823
MARYETTA— Parkhurst.	Middleville, N. Y.,	1823
Adalade S.,	Middleville, N. Y.,	1845
Lyman Carroll,	Newport, N. Y.,	1854

RESIDES at Middleville, New York.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
ALBERT DEXTER,— Anthony--Christopher--Jonathan—John--John—Stephen—Gregory,	Providence, R. I.,	1821
MARY— Cobb.	Boston, Mass.,	1822
Mary,	Providence, R. I.,	1845

RESIDES in Providence, or did recently, [1857].

Here ends the First Grand Division—being all the families from STEPHEN *of* 1647.

Second Grand Division—being all the Families descended from JOHN *of* 1652.

[THIRD GENERATION.]

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
STEPHEN DEXTER,—John—Gregory,	Providence, R. I.,	1689
SUSANNAH,— Whipple	Providence, R. I.,	1690
John,*	Providence, R. I.,	~~1625~~ 1725
Joseph,	Providence, R. I.,	1727
Christopher,	Providence, R. I.,	1728
Jeremiah,	Providence, R. I.,	1730
Edward,	Providence, R. I.,	1732
Susan, [Wm. Brown.]	Providence, R. I.,	1733
Freelove, [Peter Randall.]	Providence, R. I.,	1735
Waitstill, [Charles Field.]	Providence, R. I.,	1738

THIS man was a farmer—he lived on the

homestead of his father, a little north of the old North Burying Ground, on the east side of what is how the Pawtucket Turnpike. He was a respectable man of his day—lived to be quite advanced in life, and died of an apoplectic fit, while attending to the salting of some beef in his cellar. His grand-son, Colonel Edward, is now [1859] living, and gives these facts. He was a member of the Assembly once, in the year 1727.—[State Records.]

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
JAMES DEXTER,—John—Gregory,	Providenec, R. I.,	1691
MARY,— Whipple	Providence, R. I.,	1692
John,	Providence, R. I.,	1718
James,	Providence, R. I.,	1720
David,	Providence, R. I.,	1722
Anna,	Providence, R. I.,	1723
Marcy,	Providence, R. I.,	1725
Hopestill,	Providence, R. I.,	1727

THIS man was a respectable farmer, and resided on the east side of Scott's Pond, [now in Smithfield], and was a man of good abilities

and considerable influence. He was a member of the General Assembly in 1711–1713–1717. The above is found by deeds, wills, and State Records. He was the youngest member ever elected to the Assembly under the Charter.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth,
JOHN DEXTER,—John—Gregory,	Providence, R. I.,	1692
William,	Providence, R. I.,	1714
Stephen,—	Providence, R. I.,	1716
John,—	Providence, R. I.,	1719
Benjamin,	Providence, R. I.,	1722

BUT little is known of this man. He was a member of the Assembly for October, 1750. He and a cousin John, called John, jr., because he was younger, signed a paper to settle some difficulty in the Baptist Church in Providence, on the 25th of May, 1732, which is among the records of that church. As the nature of that paper was important, it is presumed that this man was a member of said church, and a citizen of respectable standing.

[FOURTH GENERATION.]

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
JOSEPH DEXTER,—Stephen—John—Gregory, Eston	Providence, R. I.,	1727
Joseph,*	Providence, R. I.,	1750
Moses,*	Providence, R. I.,	1752

THIS man left a large estate in the northern part of the town of Providence. His only two children died without issue, and much money has been expended in law suits about this property. Dexter Thurber understands these facts best, should particulars be desirable.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
CHRISTOPHER DEXTER,—Stephen—John—Gregory,	N. Providence, R. I.,	1728
PRICILLA— Carpenter,	Cumberland, R. I.,	1730
Amey, [Isaac Brown.]	N. Providence, R. I.,	1750
Gregory,* [Lost at Sea.]	N. Providence, R. I.,	1752
William,*	N. Providence, R. I.,	1755
Alice, [Edward Taylor.]	N. Providence, R. I.,	1756
Mahetabel, [Samuel Thurber.]	N. Providence, R. I.,	1759
Abigail, [Ebenezer Metcalf.]	N. Providence, R. I.,	1761
Lewis,	N. Providence, R. I.,	1763

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
Charles,*	N. Providence, R. I.,	1765
Waite, [Samuel Butler.]	N. Providence, R. I.,	1768
Lydia, [Oliver Owen.]	N. Providence, R. I.,	1770
Ada, [Asa Olney.]	N. Providence, R. I.,	1772

THIS man was a farmer and resided in North Providence, near the Smithfield line. He was a man of respectable standing—considerable influence in his town, and regarded as a very worthy citizen. He reared up a large family —they were respectable in their own lives and in their intermarriages. His daughter, Mrs. Brown, lixed to a very great age. This man is said to have resembled his great-grandfather, Rev. Gregory Dexter, in many of his personal habits and qualities, thus verifying the genealogic adage that moral, mental and physical resemblances disappear and reappear in particular lines of descent.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
JEREMIAH DEXTER—Stephen—John—Gregory,	Providence, R. I.,	1730
PRUDENCE—Jno. Kimball	Smithfield, R. I.,	1760

FAMILIES.		WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
Susan,	[Unmarried.]	Providence, R. I.,	1787
Amey,	[Simeon Benjamin.]	Providence, R. I.,	1788
Anna,		Providence, R. I.,	1789
Gregory,*		Providence, R. I.,	1791
Abigail,	[Unmarried.]	Providence, R. I.,	1793
Jeremiah,*		Providence, R. I.,	1794
Stephen,		Providence, R. I.,	1795
Freelove,	[Ezekiel Emerson.]	Providence, R. I.,	1796
Edward,*		Provide , R. I.,	1798

THIS man was a farmer, and resided at the foot of Herrendon Lane, on the Pawtucket turnpike, and was what was termed a "natural bone setter." He adjusted difficult dislocations with great facility, and by a process that seemed to illustrate the idea of doing things by intuition. Some young ladies, amusing themselves with a swing, caught a fall, and one of them was crippled by the dislocation of some small bones in her foot. Three different physicians failed to discover the seat of injury, or produce any relief. Afterwards, they all three met for consultation, and pronounced that no bone was out of place, but advised to send for "Jeremiah," to see what he would think of such a case. "Bone Jerry," as they called him, came, and asked the doctors if

they had done all they could for it? They replied that they had. He then took the foot in hand, and in less than a half a minute adjusted the invisible bone which had eluded the scrutiny of the doctors, and the girl immediately arose and walked across the room, greatly relieved, and to the astonishment of all three doctors; and the next day walked about town perfectly cured. This Jeremiah would never take a cent in pay for the many services of this kind he was called upon to perform, until after he was married and assumed the cares of his own family, when, as he said, he felt it his duty to be paid when called to leave his business for these purposes. He was a very worthy man, and very upright and precise in all his habits and dealings; and it is to his habits of order, discovery and protection, that a mass of ancient papers and documents of his ancestry, including all he could gather as far back as his great-grand father, Gregory, owe their preservation,—a mass which his surviving, aged daughter, recently surrendered into the custody of Lewis Dexter, jr., the patron of this record of the race. This daughter, Anna, born 1789, now

[1859] resides at and owns the farm where the subject of this note lived and died. These papers, unimportant as they may appear to the business man of *to-day*, are a boon to the future race; and, as the instrument through which she took leave of these papers, I participated in those emotions with which she parted with them.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
EDWARD DEXTER,— Stephen--John—Gregory,	N. Providence, R. I.,	1732
MARCY—Jona. Arnold	Smithfield, R. I.,	1739
Susannah, [Unmarried.]	N. Providence, R. I.,	1763
Stephen,	N. Providence, R. I.,	1764
Abigail, [Dr. Ephriam Comstock.]	N. Providence, R. I.,	1767
Edward,	N. Providence, R. I.,	1770

THIS man built a house near the present toll-gate of the Pawtucket turnpike, where he lived. He was the master of a ship, a business which he followed for some years, and finally perished at sea in January, 1770.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
JOHN DEXTER,—James--John--Gregory,	Providence, R. I.,	1718
John S.,	Cumberland, R. I.,	1753
Daniel S.,*	Cumberland, R. I.,	1754
Jabez,	Cumberland, R. I.,	1756
James,*	Cumberland, R. I.,	1757
Nathaniel B.,	Cumberland, R. I.,	1758

THIS man was a farmer and owned an estate near Whipple's bridge, in Cumberland. An English officer, of leisure and wealth, became acquainted with this family, and spent most of his time there for some years. He was a good scholar and an excellent reader, and amused himself with teaching the children. This officer's name was *Singer*, and hence the middle name S. in two of the children, and for three generations later in this line. Mr. Dexter was a respectable citizen of his day, and was a valuable man.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
JAMES DEXTER,—James--John--Gregory,	Cumberland, R. I.,	1720
ALITHEA,— T. Walker	Seekonk, Mass.,	1725
Hope, [Brown.]	Cumberland, R. I.,	1747
James,	Cumberland, R. I.,	1749
Huldah, [May.]	Cumberland, R. I.,	1750
Oliver,—	Cumberland, R. I.,	1752
Marcy, [Benjamin Walcott.]	Cumberland, R. I.,	1754
Simeon,*	Cumberland, R. I.,	1756
Eseck,*	Cumberland, R. I.,	1758
Benjamin G.,	Cumberland, R. I.,	1760
Nancy, [Jeremiah Whipple.]	Cumberland, R. I.,	1761
Alithea, [Unmarried.]	Cumberland, R. I.,	1764
Lucina, [John Dexter.]	Cumberland, R. I.,	1766
Timothy W.,	Cumberland, R. I.,	1768

NOTHING has been gathered of this man, except the statement of Mrs. John B. Dexter, that he lived and died in Cumberland, and was a farmer.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
DAVID DEXTER,—James--John--Gregory.	Providence, R. I.,	1722
David,	Cumberland, R. I.,	1758

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
Samuel,*	Cumberland, R. I.,	1760
Otis,*	Cumberland, R. I.,	1762
George,*	Cumberland, R. I.,	1764
Stephen,	Cumberland, R. I.,	1766

NOTHING known of him except the record.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
WILLIAM DEXTER,—John—John—Gregory,	Providence, R. I.,	1714
Jeremiah,	Cumberland, R. I.,	1739

BUT little is known of this man—he owned a small farm in Glocester and died there.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth
BENJAMIN DEXTER,—John—John—Gregory,	Providence, R. I.,	1722
Thomas,	Rehoboth, Mass.,	1752
Phebe,	Rehoboth, Mass.,	1754
Stephen,—	Rehoboth, Mass.,	1756
Jeremiah,—	Rehoboth, Mass.,	1758
Elisha,—	Rehoboth, Mass.,	1760

THIS man was a farmer—settled in Rehoboth, but as no record of his death was found, the clerk thinks he removed from the town. Where he went is unknown.

[FIFTH GENERATION.]

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
LEWIS DEXTER,— Christopher--Stephen--John--Gregory,	N. Providence, R. I.,	1763
LYDIA,—Dr. Comstock	Smithfield, R. I.,	1766
Lewis,	N. Providence, R. I,,	1793
Sarah C., [Stephen Covill.]	N. Providence, R. I.,	1795
Lydia, [Jabez Dexter.]	N. Providence, R. I.,	1797
Amey, [Smith Mowry.]	N. Providence, R. I.,	1799

THIS man, when in youth, was very fond of hearing older people talk of difficult exploits and hair-breadth escapes; and at one time formed a notion of traveling about the world for the purpose of overcoming every obstacle he might meet with. The substance of this boyish whim he always retained, but essentially changed its mode of execution. He settled on one of the very roughest and most

unproductive farms in the State, located some three miles from the Lime Rocks, in Smithfield, where he began his career of *resistence to natural obstacles*. By a life of very hard labor, he made this uninviting spot one of the very best and most productive farms in the State. Thus he carried out his boyish passion, but in a far more honorable and judicious way than that of his original conception. It is remembered by one who knew him in his youthful days, that after he changed his views into home operations, instead of cruising the world for something to combat, he wished to conceal that part of his boyish resolves which involved *traveling*, while the combating of natural obstacles he retained; thus but little was ever heard of his young aspirations in after life. There is wisdom to be learned from this incident. Had he started with his full original plan, he might have become a bandit or a corsair. That he had courage, energy, skill, and perseverance, undetered by any amount of obstacles or labor, is clearly demonstrated by his transforming a mass of rocks, briars, and rubbish into a great, blooming garden of grain, hay, fruit, and flowers. The

history of this man illustrates a strong passion of youth, changed by innate good sense, from a dangerous to an honorable channel of operations; and affords food for contemplation to such as desire to guide their ruling powers aright. Mr. Dexter was respected through life for his industry, perseverance, and uprightness, and died on the farm he had thus *created*.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
STEPHEN DEXTER,— Jeremiah—Stephen—John—Gregory, Morris	Providence, R. I.,	1795
Charles H.,	Providence, R. I.,	1829
Christopher,*	Providence, R. I.,	1831

I *know* nothing of this man but the record. I *think* he was super-cargo in sea-faring life. P. S.—Colonel Dexter says he was a farmer, and lived on the hill, up Herrendon Lane. This is correct.

FAMILIES.		WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
STEPHEN DEXTER— Edward--Stephen--John--Gregory,		..N. Providence, R. I.,	..1764
REBECCA—Champlain	Sisters.	..Newport, R. I.,	..1765
PHEBE— Champlain	Sisters.	..Newport, R. I.,	..1777
Christopher C.,*	1st wife.]	.....Providence, R. I.,	..1791
Edward C.,* ..	1st wife.]	Providence, R. I.,	..1793
Eliza C.,.....	1st wife.]	.....Providence, R. I.,	..1794
Oliver,*	2d wife.]	.....Providence, R. I.,	..1796
Stephen,*	2d wife.]	.....Providence, R. I.,	..1798

THIS man was a merchant, and resided near the old Providence Bank, in South Main street, Providence. He was a man of gentle and affable manners, and very generally esteemed. With him, true politeness was innate originality; and, in the quaint phrases of the day, he was distinguished from several other Stephens then living, by the appellation of "Gentleman Stephen." He educated his son Christopher C. at Brown University, assisted him into the profession of the law, where he exhibited evidence of being a talented young man,—was invited by the public authorities and delivered the oration on July Fourth, 1816. But he was a "fast liver," and was found dead in his bed one morning, probably after a too hearty

supper. Mr. Dexter, the subject of this note, married two sisters, as may be seen on refeence to his record. He removed to New York, where he died many years since, and where his widow survived him till December, 1858, aged eighty-one. His children left no issue, and his line is extinct.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
EDWARD DEXTER— Edward--Stephen--John--Gregory,	N. Providence, R. I.,	1770
ABBY— Job Smith	Providence, R. I.,	1773
SARAH—Jno. Mumford	Providence, R. I.,	1781
Sally Smith, [Unmarried.]	Providence, R. I.,	1797
Edward,	Providence. R. I.,	1799
Henry Harris,	Providence, R. I.,	1801
Frances Susan, [Unmarried.]	Providence, R. I.,	1803

THIS man was born near the present toll-gate, on the Pawtucket turnpike. He lived on the farm till he was sixteen years of age; and during this period, General La Fayette and other officers of the Revolution, were quartered at his parental homestead, where he became so intimate and familiar with the

young General that near fifty years after [1824], the General met him in a crowd at Dedham and recognized him at once as his youthful associate, at whose house he once quartered. At the age of sixteen, young Dexter entered as a clerk in the counting house of Welcome Arnold, a well known merchant of that day; and twice it fell to his lot to save the life of his employer from drowning through broken ice in the harbor, while attending to their shipping. In this mercantile house he acquired considerable experience and acted the part of a confidential agent. In 1791 he left the establishment, on good terms, and entered commercial life for himself. For fifteen years he followed the seas, a portion of the time as manager of his own cargos. In 1805 he was at Gaudaloupe, in the midst of the scene when yellow fever, small pox and plague carried off forty thousand French troops of the army of St. Domingo, and daily seeing them buried by boat loads, escaped untouched by disease. In 1806, after seeing something of the four quarters of the globe, on mercantile business of his own, he retired from the seas and engaged in

business life at home. In 1811, when William Jones was elected Governor, Mr. Dexter was called from a company of cavalry to be an aide to the Governor, with the rank of colonel—a position which he held till 1817, when the Governor was succeeded by Governor Knight. Colonel Dexter has been a remarkably active, energetic, and most emphatically a business man. He has been the sole owner of seventeen different ships, at different times, and partial owner of some others; and has transacted a very large amount of business in the way of purchase and sale of property, and in his business transactions was regarded as prompt and honorable, whether acting on his own private account, or as guardian, trustee, referee, or commissioner for others, a large share of which has fallen to his lot. That a man of his mental structure, and position through so long a life, should entirely escape censure and enemies, is hardly to be expected. He is a man possessed of high mental powers, perhaps, in some instances, over balanced by a very strong will, and probably has had more lawsuits in relation to property than any man

who has ever been a citizen of Rhode Island; but there is good reason to suppose, from his own candid confessions near the close of life, that he never engaged in a suit at law without first being conscientiously satisfied that he was right; and a majority of the results have demonstrated the correctness of his opinion. Colonel Dexter is no miser. He is affable kind, generous, benevolent, and paternal in all his civil and social relations, and enjoys the respect of those who do not claim to be his friends. Colonel Dexter never saw his father, he having, as master of a ship, perished at sea in January, 1770, the month in which the Colonel was born. In 1858, Col. Dexter had a tin cylinder prepared, in which he placed six copies of a genealogic chart of his race, then recently prepared, covered it with tar and paint to prevent its decay by moisture, and ordered it to be deposited by the side of his remains, whenever he should be lain in a permanent tomb which he erected some years since in the "Old North Burying Ground," at Providence. A portion of the living members of this race had created themselves members of the "Blackstone Monument Association,"

during the preparation of this genealogy; and on its completion, Colonel Dexter, as the living patriarch of the family, in 1858, created the entire balance of the race members, at his own expense,—thus, in connection with his relative, Lewis Dexter, jr., the patron of the chart, he will be entitled to the gratitude of posterity for the permanency of the records of his race. Colonel Dexter resides at Seekonk, Mass.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth
JOHN S. DEXTER—John--James--John--Gregory,	Cumberland, R. I.,	1753
MARY— Pearce	E. Greenwich, R. I.,	1752
John P.,*	E. Greenwich, R. I.,	1777
Daniel Singer,	E. Greenwich, R. I.,	1780
Alexander Scammell,*	E. Greenwich, R. I.,	1785
Eliza, [George C. Nightingale.]	Cumberland, R. I.,	1787
Mary,	Cumberland, R. I.,	1790

THIS man was born at Cumberland. He was married at East Greenwich, R. I., and resided there till 1786, when he removed to Cumberland, the homestead of his father, where he died at an advanced age. He was a

very capable man for private or public business, and was much absent from home on business. In the Revolution he held the rank of a colonel, and was of Washington's military family during the operations in Rhode Island. In January, 1800, Washington's funeral was solemnized in Providence, and Mr. Dexter was a pall-bearer. He was several years Judge of the Court of Common Pleas for Providence County, and afterwards secretary of the Roger Williams Insurance Company. He was a man that commanded respect in all the positions he was called to fill. His line is extinct in the males, but he has descendents in the female line—a grand-daughter in New York and Mrs. Nightingale near Olneyville; and Mrs. Blanchard, a grand-daughter, in Elsie, Pa. See family of Daniel S.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
JABEZ DEXTER—John--James--John--Gregory.	Cumberland, R. I.,	1756
Joseph,*	Cumberland, R. I.,	1780
Peter B.,*	Cumberland, R. I.,	1783

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
James,—	Cumberland, R. I.,	1785
Jabez,—	Cumberland, R. I.,	1790

I know nothing of this man except the record. His son, Peter B., resided in Texas, and was secretary to the convention that annexed that republic to the United States. He was never married.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
Nath'l Balch Dexter,— John--James--John--Gregory,	Cumberland, R. I.,	1758
Lucy— Joseph Willard	Grafton, Mass.,	1758
Sally W., [— Davenport and John C. Leveck.]	Grafton, Mass.,	1781
John W.,	Grafton, Mass.,	1783
Horatio M.,	Grafton, Mass.,	1785
Nathaniel G. B.,	Grafton, Mass.,	1788
Waterman T.,	Grafton, Mass.,	1790
Lucy W., [John C. Leveck.]	Grafton, Mass.,	1792
Mary C., [Edwin Harris.]	Grafton, Mass.,	1794
Martha [Staunton Thurber.]	Grafton, Mass.,	1797
Sabra E., [John Wilson.]	Pawtucket, R. I.,	1798
Joseph W.,	Pawtucket, R. I.,	1801
Eliza A., [Unmarried.]	Pawtucket, R. I.,	1804

This man was a tailor by trade, and settled in Grafton, Mass., where he resided till 1797,

when he removed to Pawtucket, R. I. He continued to reside in Pawtucket till 1830, when he removed to Providence, where he died in 1832, aged about 74. He was social and agreeable; and the great story teller of his day, at convivial gatherings.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr birth.
JAMES DEXTER—James--James--John--Gregory,	Cumberland, R. I.,	1749
James,*	Cumberland, R. I.,	1779

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
BENJAMIN G. DEXTER—James--James—John--Gregory,	Cumberland, R. I.,	1760
MARY—Jonathan Dexter--John--John--Stephen--Gregory,	Smithfield, R. I.,	1762
Abby G., [William Earle and Joseph Lawton.]	Smithfield, R. I.,	1785
Mary, [Anthony Dexter--Christopher--Jonathan---John--John—Stephen--Gregory,	Providence, R. I.,	1791
Louisa G., [Samuel B. Mumford.	Providence, R. I.,	1797
Alice,	Providence, R. I.,	1800
Lucina,	Providence, R. I.,	1802

THIS man followed the seas many years, and became master of his own ship, and accumulated a good estate. He quit voyaging and opened a store at what was then and is now a brick house, in South Main street, Providence, opposite what was then called Dexter's wharf, which he owned, and where his daughter, Mrs. Lawton, now [1859] lives. He was an industrious and respectable man, and the framer of his own fortune. The writer of this note remembers distinctly the fact of holding a conversation with him in 1818, about boys starting in life, when he remarked that when he earned his first dollar, on a farm in Cumberland, he "laid it away as a choice bit, and kept doing so." He was a man of good sound common sense, and much respected through life.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth
TIMOTHY W. DEXTER— James--James--John--Gregory,	Cumberland, R. I.,	1768
SARAH— D. Messenger	Wrentham, Mass.,	1770
James M.,	Cumberland, R. I,	1804

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
Benjamin G.,*	Cumberland, R. I.,	1805
Eseck W.,	Cumberland, R. I.,	1807
Sarah Ann,	Cumberland, R. I.,	1814

THIS man was a farmer, and lived near the coal mine in Cumberland, where he had a good estate.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth
DAVID DEXTER—David--James--John--Gregory,	Cumberland, R.I.,	1758.
Otis,*	Cumberland, R. I.,	1780
Samuel,	Cumberland, R. I.,	1781
Bela,*	Cumberland, R. I.,	1783
George,—	Cumberland, R. I.,	1785
Gregory,*	Cumberland, R. I.,	1787

HE was a farmer at Glocester, and that is all I could learn. He moved thence about 1788.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth
STEPHEN DEXTER— David—James----John—Gregory,	Cumberland, R. I.,	1766
SABRA— White	Cumberland, R. I.,	1767
Stephen,	Scituate, or Cranston, R. I.,	1796

THIS man was a farmer, and resided at Scituate and Cranston. He once owned some estate in both of those towns.

JEREMIAH DEXTER— William—John—John—Gregory,	Cumberland, R. I.,	1739
LYDIA	Scituate, R. I.,	1740
William,	Scituate, R. I.,	1769

THIS man lived in what is now Scituate. He had no particular calling, but was a sort of "Jack at all trades," and worked for most every body, and at almost every thing that might be wanted. He was either drafted or enlisted in the Revolution, and his wife spent a considerable time with him at camp, in

cooking, and otherwise aiding on the war; and for her patriotic labor she was long called "Camp Lydia."

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
THOMAS DEXTER,— Benjamin--John--John--Gregory,	Rehoboth, Mass.,	1752
LEAH— Philips	Rehoboth, Mass ,	1755
Susan,	Cherry Valley, N. Y.,	1793
William,—	Killingly, Conn.,	1795
George,—	Killingly, Conn.,	1797
Mary,	Killingly, Conn.,	1799
Thomas,	Killingly, Conn.,	1802

THIS man was a farmer. He was born at Rehoboth, settled at Cherry Valley, N. Y., and afterwards removed to Killingly, Conn., where he spent the remainder of his life.

[SIXTH GENERATION.]

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN	Yr. birth.
LEWIS DEXTER,— Lewis--Christopher--Stephen--John--Gregory,	N. Providence, R. I.,	1793
MARY,— Jona. Angell	Smithfield, R. I.,	1799
Mary,	Smithfield, R. I.,	1826
Lewis,	Smithfield, R. I.,	1829
Louisa, [Lucian Sharpe.]	Smithfield, R. I.,	1831
Lydia,	Smithfield, R. I.,	1833
Henry,* [Unmarried,]	Smithfield, R. I.,	1836
Sarah,	Smithfield, R. I.,	1838
Amey, [Unmarried.]	Smithfield, R. I.,	1842

THIS gentleman resides on the farm in Smithfield described in note on his father on page 57. He was bred to the business of farming, which has been his principal occupation through life. At the district schools of his boyhood years he acquired the merest rudiments of an English education, but by private study he qualified himself for the discharge of the various public trusts to which he has been called, with intelligence and respectability. In conducting his farming operations, the ordinary crops raised in New England formerly claimed almost his exclusive attention; but within the last twelve years,

a large portion of his time has been devoted to the cultivation of various kinds of fruit, and his success in this department of rural labor has placed his name among the most intelligent fruit growers in the State. Mr. Dexter has been successively a member of the town council of his native town; he has represented it in the State legislature, and also been a judge on the bench of Providence county. This last office was prior to the reform in the judiciary of the State, when no extraordinary legal attainments were deemed requisite for a position on the bench. It was regarded, however, as an honorable distinction; and it would have been well for the reputation of the State if this honor had never been less worthily bestowed. For many years, Mr. Dexter declined all public offices, but his long experience and capabilities in municipal affairs was so highly appreciated by his fellow citizens, that he has been induced for a few years past to preside at the council board of the government of his town. He is a citizen of wealth and influence in his native town, and sustains throughout the State an honorable reputation. Few men can look back through the vista of

more than three score years with so little to regret; few can behold around them so many results of patient toil and persevering industry; and very few, in the maturity of years, are permitted to enjoy such ample fruits of a well-spent life, and in the bosom of so respectable, devoted and happy a family as that which surrounds the subject of this brief note.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
EDWARD DEXTER,— Edward--Edward--Stephen—John—Gregory,	Providence, R. I.,	1799
ARVILLA,— T. Walker	Seekonk, Mass.,	1803
Christopher,	Seekonk, Mass.,	1826
Edward M.,*	Seekonk, Mass.,	1828

THIS son of Colonel Edward [on page 61] was a farmer and merchant, and resided at Seekonk, Mass.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
HENRY H. DEXTER,— Edward--Edward--Stephen--John--Gregory,	Providence, R. I.,	1801
EUNICE— T. Walker	Seekonk, Mass.,	1806

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
Samuel Frederick,*	Glocester, R. I.,	1829
Sally Smith, [Unmarried.]	Glocester, R. I.,	1831
John Mumford,	Seekonk, Mass.,	1833
Joseph Davis,	Seekonk, Mass.,	1835
Edward,	Providence, R. I.,	1837
Timothy Walker,	Providence, R. I.,	1839
Abby Smith,	Seekonk, Mass ,	1842
Charles Henry,	Seekonk, Mass.,	1843

This son of Colonel Edward, is a farmer and resides in Seekonk. He is a very worthy man, and owns a good estate.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
Daniel S. Dexter,— John S.--John--James--John--Gregory,	E. Greenwich, R. I.,	1780
Hannah— Heron	Pittsburg, Penn.,	1785
Ellen Ewans, [John Blurchard]	Eric, Penn.,	1816

This man settled in Elsie, Pa., where he left one daughter, now Mrs. Blurchard.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
John W. Dexter,— Nathaniel B.--John--James--John--Gregory.	Grafton, Mass.,	1783
Sally— Cyril Bowen	Rehoboth, Mass.,	1790

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
Sophia S., [Norton Carpenter.]	N. Providence, R. I.,	1812
Sally Ann,.. [Unmarried.]	N. Providence, R. I.,	1813
Maria R.,.. [Samuel Merry, divorced, and James Fletcher.]	N. Providence, R. I.,	1815
James A.,	N. Providence, R. I.,	1817
Thomas B.,	Pawtucket, Mass.,	1819
Elmira P.,	Pawtucket, Mass.,	1821

THIS man resides at Pawtucket, Mass., where he has an estate. He was formerly a house-carpenter, but has been lame several years, and does not follow that trade. He is a respectable citizen, in good standing.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
HORATIO M. DEXTER,— Nathaniel B.--John—James--John--Gregory,	Grafton, Mass.,	1785
Isaac,*	Ohio,	1807
Thomas D.,—	Ohio,	1813

THIS man removed to Ohio many years since, but nothing further known.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
NATHANIEL G. B. DEXTER,— Nathaniel B.--John--James--John--Gregory,	Grafton, Mass.,	1788
AMEY— Jerahmeel Jencks	Pawtucket, R. I.,	1788
Jerahmeel J.,	Smithfield, R. I.,	1809
Lucy W., [William Fletcher.]	Pawtucket, R. I.,	1811
Nathaniel,	Pawtucket, R. I.,	1814
James Gregory,*	Pawtucket, R. I.,	1817
Simon Willard,	Pawtucket, R. I.,	1820
Daniel Singer,	Pawtucket, R. I.,	1822
Amey, [Ferdinand Eddy.]	Pawtucket, R. I.,	1825
Samuel Slater,	Pawtucket, R. I.,	1827

AMONG the descendents of Rev. Gregory Dexter, there have been six bearing the name of Gregory; and this is the only one of the six, who ever lived to marry. As he would now hardly be known by any other name than that of "Captain Dexter," I shall use that title from the outset, in this note. Captain Dexter was born at Grafton, Mass., in 1788, and in 1797, when he was nine years old, removed to Pawtucket with his father's family. One of the foundations of his long life and prosperity, may be told in the earliest thing remembered of him, viz: When a child, he went into the house and told his mother that

he had seen a sight. "Well!" said the mother, "what is it, Nattie?" "Well, mother, I've seen a man trying to walk, and could n't go, because they said he was drunk; and I have inquired into it, and come to an agreement with myself, to never drink one drop of anything that I know has any drunk in it!" "Well, Nattie," says she, "if you do that you will always be safe." And he has kept that "agreement made with himself" to this day [1859], and bids fair to attend the weddings of his great-grand children, twenty years hence.

Captain Dexter was educated by his parents and never went to school a day in his life. He early entered the counting room as a clerk to Samuel Slater, the first manufacturer of cotton yarn by machinery in America. While in this employ, Captain Dexter opened the first Sunday school in the United States, and taught it himself. The scholars were the children who worked in the cotton mill. In 1808, Captain Dexter was married, and in 1858, he celebrated with his wife the fiftieth anniversary of his wedding; and among the hundreds of his descendents and friends present

were two other couples, giving additional interest to the occasion, viz: Rev. David Benedict, D. D., who married Captain Dexter fifty years before, was present with his wife; and Josiah Jones, Esq., now an active printer at Providence, who, with his own fingers, set the types that announced the wedding in a paper he was then publishing, made his appearance in the company with *his wife*, and read the marriage from his own paper, as he set it in type fifty years before; and, what is still more wonderful, both the clergyman and the printer, with the wives of their youth, all married in 1808, had, this year, with Captain Dexter, celebrated their fiftieth, or "Golden Weddings." It is questionable whether another instance like this can be found in any age or country in the whole history of the world. Captain Dexter has for many years been a manufacturer of cotton knitting yarn, on an extensive scale, and most of his sons and grand sons are concerned with him in that business. With the exception of a short time, about 1810, when he resided at Slatersville, Captain Dexter has always resided at Pawtucket, where he now resides,

and where he has a good estate; and he has always maintained the reputation of an upwright, prompt and energetic man in his business; and in his civil and social relations, he is generous, benevolent, frank, affable and kind. He is one of the main pillars of the universalist denomination in that place; but as he is the patriarch of the whole American system of Sunday schools, he is often seen in gatherings of this kind without regard to denomination. Captain Dexter uses in moderation, most of the "good things of life" for his food—uses cold water and clear air for his drink and medicine, and wears cotton stockings throughout the year. He is ever active in the pursuit of something, and amid all the cares of his extensive business, he manages to find considerable time which he employs in "going about doing good."

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
WATERMAN T. DEXTER,—Grafton,	Mass.,	1790
Nathaniel B.--John--James--John--Gregory,		
FANNY— James Orne.. Attleboro,	Mass.,	1793

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
Horatio,	Hopkinton, Mass.,	1813
Ann E. B., [Caleb Ingraham.]	Attleboro, Mass.,	1815
George Thomas,	N. Providence, R. I.,	1819
Fanny Orne, [Abner D. Horr.]	N. Providence, R. I.,	1822
Waterman W.,	N. Providence, R. I.,	1824
Henry Bowers,	N. Providence, R. I.,	1827
Sarah L., [Ray W. Potter.]	N. Providence, R. I.,	1830
Caroline Reed,	N. Providence, R. I.,	1832

THIS man resides in Pawtucket, and is employed in the manufacture of cotton yarn. His reputation is that of an industrious and respectable citizen.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
JOSEPH W. DEXTER,— Nathaniel B.--John--James--John--Gregory,	Pawtucket, R. I.,	1801
Charles,—	Ohio,	1829

THIS man early removed to Ohio, and but little is now known of him

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
JAMES W. DEXTER,— Timothy W.,--James--James--John--Gregory,	Cumberland, R. I.,	1804
PHEBE— Sanford	New Hampshire,	1810
Timothy W.,*	Cumberland, R. I.,	1831
Anna S., [Unmarried.]	Cumberland, R. I.,	1833
Harriet W., [Unmarried.]	Cumberland, R. I.,	1835
James Cooke,	Cumberland, R. I.,	1837
Benjamin,	Providence, Ill.,	1839
Thomas,	Providence, Ill.,	1842
Albert,*	Providence, Ill.,	1844
Phebe Ann,	Providence, Ill.,	1846
George E.,	Providence, Ill.,	1850

THIS man is a farmer. He settled near the coal mine in Cumberland, where he resided till 1838, when he purchased a farm at Providence, Illinois, where he now resides, and is a respectable farmer in good standing.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
ESECK W. DEXTER,— Timothy W.--James--James--John--Gregory,	Cumberland, R. I.,	1807
ELIZABETH F.—Hammond	Seekonk, Mass.,	1809
Frances, [Unmarried.]	Cumberland, R. I.,	1838
Frederick A.,	Cumberland, R. I.,	1840

THIS man was a farmer, and resided on a good estate near the homestead of his father in the vicinity of the Cumberland coal mine.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
SAMUEL DEXTER—David—David—James—John—Gregory,	Cumberland, R. I.,	1781
SABRA—Ibrock Whipple	Cumberland, R. I.,	1790
William C.,	Cumberland, R. I.,	1808
David W.,	Cumberland, R. I.,	1809
George H.,*	Cumberland, R. I.,	1811
Orin L.,	Cumberland, R. I.,	1813
John S.,	Cumberland, R. I.,	1818
Orissa B.,	Cumberland, R. I.,	1821
Pardon N.,	Cumberland, R. I.,	1822
Samuel A.,	Cumberland, R. I.,	1824

THIS man was a farmer, and resided at Cumberland till 1825, when he removed to Smithfield, where he died some years since. His widow, in 1858, resided at Valley Falls.

FAMILIES.		WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
STEPHEN DEXTER— Stephen--David--James--John--Gregory,		Cranston, R. I.,	1796
MARY ANN,—	Whipple	Cumberland, R. I.,	1799
JANE,—	Nathan Cory	Coventry, R. I.,	1800
Sabra,	[C. Angell.]	Cranston, R. I.,	1822
Mary,	[Unmarried]	Cranston, R. I.,	1824
Cornelia,	[N. Jencks.]	Cumberland, R. I.,	1829
Susan,	[W. Johnson.]	Cumberland, R. I.,	1831
Andrew J.,	1st wife.]	Cumberland, R. I.,	1834
Henry Oscar,		Cumberland, R. I.,	1836
Edmund M.,*		Cumberland, R. I.,	1840

THIS man resided in Cranston till 1826, when he removed to Cumberland, where he resided till after 1840, when he removed to Scituate, where he now resides, a farmer.

FAMILIES.		WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
WILLIAM DEXTER,—Jeremiah-- William--John--John--Gregory,		Scituate, R. I.,	1769
RUTH—	Stephen Johnson	Scituate, R. I.,	1767
Jeremiah,		Scituate, R. I.,	1790
Abby,	[Unmarried.]	Scituate, R. I.,	1792
Stephen,		Scituate, R. I.,	1794
William,		Scituate, R. I.,	1798

THIS man was called an "old substantial farmer." He had a farm in Scituate, where he lived and died. His descendents live in the vicinity of the old homestead.

FAMILIES.		WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
THOMAS DEXTER,—Thomas--Benjamin--John--John--Gregory,		Killingly, Ct.,	1802
PHILA—	John Adams	Killingly, Ct.,	1812
Phila,	[Isaac Adams.]	Killingly, Ct.,	1834
Mary Jane,		Killingly, Ct ,	1836
George W.,		Killingly, Ct.,	1843

A RESPECTABLE farmer, and resides in Killingly, Conn., or did in 1858.

[SEVENTH GENERATION.]

FAMILIES.		WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
LEWIS DEXTER,—Lewis—Lewis--Christopher--Stephen---John--Gregory,		Smithfield, R. I.,	1829
ELLEN S.,	George Owen	Providence, R. I.,	1838

THIS gentleman was married at Providence, May 10, 1858. He resides at Providence, and is of the firm of Gorham & Company, manufacturers of silver ware.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
CHISTOPHER DEXTER,— Edward--Edward--Edward—Stephen--John--Gregory,	Seekonk, Mass.,	1826
SARAH W.,— Jefferson	Smithfield, R. I ,	1828
Walter,	Seekonk, Mass.,	1852
Sarah,	Providence, R. I.,	1854
Frank,*	Newton, Mass.,	1856
Arthur,*	Seekonk, Mass.,	1857
Alfred,	Seekonk, Mass.,	1858

THIS man is a house carpenter, and resides at Seekonk, Mass. He is a grand-son of Colonel Edward; has a good estate, a pleasant situation, three miles from Providence, and with this family their grand-father, Colonel Edward, resides. From this house, the Colonel frequently walks to Providence, attends to business, returns to dine, and spends the afternoon at home, though nearly ninety years of age.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
JAMES A. DEXTER,— John W.--Nathaniel B.--John--James--John--Gregory,	N. Providence, R. I.,	1817
MARY— Jackson	England,	1819
Sarah Sophia,	N. Providence, R. I.,	1854

THIS man resides in ———, and is a seafaring man.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
THOMAS B. DEXTER,— John W.--Nathaniel B.--John--James--John--Gregory,	Pawtucket, Mass.,	1819
ABBY— Brayman	E. Greenwich, R. I.,	1820
Thomas Frederick, (Twins.)	Pawtucket, R. I.,	1848
Abby Maria, (Twins.)	Pawtucket, R. I.,	1848
Ada M.,	Pawtucket, R. I.,	1853

THIS man resides at North Providence, and is an engineer.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
JERAHMEEL J. DEXTER,— Nathaniel G. B.—Nathaniel B.--John--James--John--Gregory,	Smithfield, R. I.,	1809
ELIZA A.— Marchant	Yarmouth, Mass.,	1807

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
Jerahmeel,	Pawtucket, R. I.,	1835
Albert,	Pawtucket, R. I.,	1836
Mary Eliza,	Pawtucket, R. I.,	1842

THIS man resides at Pawtucket, and is an overseer in his father's mill.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
NATHANIEL DEXTER,— Nathaniel G. B.--Nathaniel B.--John--James--John--Gregory,	Pawtucket, R. I.,	1814
MARY ANN,—Icha. Jencks. [No children.]	Pawtucket, R. I.,	1815

RESIDES at Pawtucket, and is employed in the yarn works of his father.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
SIMON W. DEXTER,— Nathaniel G. B.--Nathaniel B.--John--James--John--Gregory,	Pawtucket, R. I.,	1820
ANN ELIZA— S. Brown.	Seekonk, Mass.,	1820
Amey Eliza, [Unmarried.]	Pawtucket, R. I.,	1844
Emma,	Pawtucket, R. I.,	1845
Samuel Francis,	Pawtucket, R. I.,	1847
Amelia Jencks,	Pawtucket, R. I.,	1849

RESIDES at Pawtucket, and is with his father in the yarn business.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
DANIEL S. DEXTER,— Nathaniel G. B.--Nathaniel B.--John--James--John--Gregory,	Pawtucket, R. I.,	1822
ANN—	Smith	
[No children.]		

RESIDES in Pawtucket, and is in the yarn business with his father.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
SAMUEL SLATER DEXTER— Nathaniel G. B.--Nathaniel B.--John--James--John--Gregory,	Pawtucket, R. I.,	1827
*ELVIRA,—Sylv'r Crowell	Pawtucket, Mass.,	1829
SARAH,— Howland	Smithfield, R. I.,	
Sarah Frances, [First wife.]	Pawtucket, R. I.,	1850
Nelly, [Second wife.]	Pawtucket, R. I.,	1854
Charles, [Second wife.]	Pawtucket, R. I.,	1855

RESIDES at Pawtucket, and is in the yarn business with his father.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth
HORATIO DEXTER,— Waterman T.--Nathaniel B.--John--James--John--Gregory,	Hopkinton, Mass.,	1813
MARY— S. Mitchell,	New York City,	1811
Horatio,	N. Providence, R. I.,	1837
Sebastian M ,	N. Providence, R. I.,	1838
Abner L.,	N. Providence, R. I.,	1841
Mary Eliza,	Providence, R. I.,	1847

RESIDES at New London, Conn., and is a blacksmith.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
GEORGE T. DEXTER,— Waterman T.--Nathaniel B.--John--James--John--Gregory,	Pawtucket, Mass.,	1819
MARTHA—John Salisbury	Warren, R. I.,	1820
George Albert,	Providence, R. I.,	1847

RESIDES at Pawtucket, Mass., and is a jeweller.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
WATERMAN W. DEXTER— Waterman T.--Nathaniel B.--John--James--John--Gregory,	N. Providence, R. I.,	1824
MARY J.— Capt. Baker	Fall River, Mass.,	1828
Grace A.,* [Unmarried.]	N. Providence, R. I.,	1847
Clara W.,	N. Providence, R. I.,	1849
Herbert C.,	N. Providence, R. I.,	1852
Annie G.,	N. Providence, R. I.,	1854
Frank Gregory,	N. Providence, R. I.,	1856

THIS man is a jeweller, repairer of watches, and dealer in fancy goods. He is a smart, capable young man, industrious in his business, and in reputable standing. If he raises his Gregory to manhood, he will be the second instance. See history of N. G. B. Dexter, on page 78. Resides at Pawtucket, R. I.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth
WILLIAM C. DEXTER,— Samuel--David--David--James--John--Gregory,	Cumberland, R. I.,	1808
PRUDENCE,— R. Claflin	Attleboro, Mass.,	1808
CAROLINE,— Streeter	Cumberland, R. I.,	1810
Curtis W.,	Cumberland, R. I.,	1836
Edwin,*	Cumberland, R. I.,	1838

RESIDES in Cumberland, and is employed in a cotton factory, or was.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
DAVID W. DEXTER,— Samuel--David--David--James--John--Gregory,	Cumberland, R. I.,	1809
ELLEN— Eb'r Somerby	Boston, Mass.,	1819
Samuel Augustus,*	Cumberland, R. I.,	1843
Edwin Francis,	Cumberland, R. I.,	1845
George Frederick,	Cumberland, R. I.,	1846
Abby Frances,	Cumberland, R. I.,	1847
Susan Maria, [Unmarried.]	Smithfield, R. I.,	1849
Edgar Alphonzo,*	Smithfield, R. I.,	1851
Charles Henry,	Smithfield, R. I.,	1853
Howard Clare,	Smithfield, R. I.,	1856

RESIDED in Cumberland till 1848, when he removed to Smithfield [Central Falls], where he resides, and is employed in a cotton factory.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
JOHN S. DEXTER,— Samuel--David--David--James--John--Gregory,	Cumberland, R. I.,	1818
POLLY,— G. Wilder	Cape Cod,	1817
Samuel K.,	Providence, R. I.,	1837
Thomas Mortimer,*	Providence, R. I.,	1839
Andrew Jackson,	Fall River, Mass.,	1845

EMPLOYED in a cotton mill, resides in the vicinity of Central Falls.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
PARDON N. DEXTER,— Samuel--David--David--James--John--Gregory.	Smithfield, R. I.,	1822
ABBY,— Wanton Wilbur	Warwick, R. I.,	1823
Ellen A.,	Cumberland, R. I.,	1847
Pardon N.,	Cumberland, R. I.,	1850
Marietta,	Cumberland, R. I.,	1856
George,	Cumberland, R. I.,	1857

RESIDES at Valley Falls, and is employed in a cotton mill.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
SAMUEL A. DEXTER,— Samuel--David—David--James--John--Gregory,	Smithfield, R. I.,	1824
HARRIET,—Wanton Miller	Warwick, R. I.,	1825
Wanton,	Warwick, R. I.,	1857

RESIDES at Warwick, and employment unknown.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr birth.
JEREMIAH DEXTER—William-- Jeremiah—William--John--John--Gregory,	Scituate, R. I.,	1790
AMEY— Aaron Mathewson	Scituate, R. I.,	1791
Mary, [Horace Steere.]	Scituate, R. I.,	1813
Susan, [Edmond R. Angell—divorced.]	Scituate, R. I.,	1820
Henry,	Scituate, R. I.,	1822
Louisa, [Unmarried.]	Scituate, R. I.,	1826
Jeremiah,	Scituate, R. I.,	1827
William A.,	Scituate, R. I.,	1830
Horace,	Scituate, R. I.,	1832
Mahala, [Benjamin F. Evans.]	Scituate, R. I.,	1836

THIS man is a farmer. He owns a good farm in Scituate, where he resides—or did reside in 1857.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
STEPHEN DEXTER,—William--Jeremiah--William--John--John--Gregory,	Scituate, R. I.,	1794
RACHAEL,— Asael Collins	Cranston, R. I.,	1797
Lydia A., [Miles O. Pray.]	Scituate, R. I.,	1817
Ann Eliza, [Daniel Walden.]	Scituate, R. I.,	1821
Andrew,	Scituate, R. I.,	1823
Abby L., [Unmarried.]	Scituate, R. I.,	1825
Harley,	Scituate, R. I.,	1827
Stephen A.,	Scituate, R. I.,	1829
Albert H.,	Scituate, R. I.,	1832
Charles N.,	Scituate, R. I.,	1836
George R.,	Scituate, R. I.,	1838

THIS man was a farmer in Scituate, where he died some years ago. His widow resides on the estate of her husband, and is a capable worthy woman.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
WILLIAM DEXTER,—William--Jeremiah--William--John--John--Gregory,	Scituate, R. I.,	1798
MARCELIA,—Richard Hicks	Lyndon, Vt.,	1802
Emery,	Scituate, R. I.,	1822
Arnold,*	Glocester, R. I.,	1825

FAMILIES.		WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
Mary Eliza,	[Jeremiah Hopkins.]	Glocester, R. I.,	1826
George Arnold,*		Glocester, R. I.,	1829
Elmira Frances,	[Unmarried.]	Scituate, R. I.,	1832
Joseph White,		Glocester, R. I.,	1834
Laura Malvina,	[Unmarried]	Glocester, R. I.,	1838
Emeline,	[Unmarried.]	Glocester, R. I.,	1841

THIS man is an intelligent and industrious farmer, residing in Scituate. He has a good farm, and produces considerable, which he weekly carries to Providence market. He is a good pattern or type of a substantial man; and his family are industrious and respectable.

[EIGHTH GENERATION.]

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth
ALBERT DEXTER,— Jerahmeel J.--Nathaniel G. B.--Nathaniel B.--John--James--John--Gregory,	Pawtucket, R. I.,	1836
JULIA—	Smithfield, R. I.,	1839
William Albert,	Pawtucket, R. I.,	1858

THIS man has buried his wife; is in the yarn business with Captain Dexter, at Pawtucket.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth
CURTIS W. DEXTER,— William C.--Samuel--David—David--James--John--Gregory,	Cumberland, R. I.,	1836
William,		1857

I KNOW nothing of him; got the dates from his grand-mother, Samuel's widow.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth
HENRY DEXTER,—Jeremiah— William—Jeremiah--William--John--John--Gregory,	Scituate, R. I.,	1822
LAURIE ANN— Samuel Teft	Johnston, R. I.,	1829
Josephine,	Scituate, R. I.,	1850
Frank,	Scituate, R. I.,	1854

THIS man is a farmer, and resides near his father in Scituate.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
JEREMIAH DEXTER,— Jeremiah--William--Jeremiah--William--John--John--Gregory,	Scituate, R. I.,	1827
SUSAN H.,—Olney Taylor.	Scituate, R. I.,	1827
Emma, [Unmarried.]	Waterford, Mass.,	1852
Maria Adelade,	Scituate, R. I.,	1854

A FARMER, and lives in Scituate.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr birth.
WILLIAM A. DEXTER,— Jeremiah--William--Jeremiah--William--John--John--Gregory,	Scituate, R. I.,	1830
SABRA MARIA— Alf. Horton.	Foster, R. I.,	1836
Lydia Martin,	Foster, R. I.,	1856

A FARMER, and resides in Foster, R. I.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
HORACE DEXTER,—Jeremiah-- William--Jeremiah--William--John--John--Gregory,	Scituate, R. I.,	1832
ABBY— Alfred Horton.	Foster, R. I.,	1832
Mary Elizabeth,	Scituate, R. I.,	1853

A YOUNG farmer, near his father in Scituate.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
ANDREW DEXTER,—Stephen--William--Jeremiah--William--John--John--Gregory,	Scituate, R. I.,	1823
NANCY,— George Smith	Glocester, R. I.,	1832
Merrit Dewitt,	Foster, R. I.,	1852
George Smith,	Scituate, R. I.,	1853

THIS man is a maker of axe handles and wooden ware, at Killingly, Conn.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth
HARLEY DEXTER,—Stephen--William--Jeremiah--William--John--John--Gregory,	Scituate, R. I.,	1827
AMEY,— Eddy Evans	Glocester, R. I.,	1833
Phebe M.,	Scituate, R. I.,	1856

A FARMER, and lives with his mother, on their farm, at Scituate.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
ALBERT H. DEXTER,— Stephen—William--Jeremiah--William--John--John--Gregory,	Scituate, R. I.,	1832
EMILY JANE,— Marcy	Blackstone, Mass.,	1833
Lillis E.,	Warwick, R. I.,	1854

RESIDES at Warwick, and is employed in a cotton mill—an overseer.

FAMILIES.	WHERE BORN.	Yr. birth.
EMERY DEXTER,—William--William--Jeremiah--William--John--John--Gregory,	Scituate, R. I.,	1822
MARY,— Walter Jackson	Sturbridge, Mass.,	1830
Henrietta,	Scituate, R, I.,	1851
Mary Frances, [Unmarried.]	Scituate, R. I.,	1853
Ida Melvina,	Scituate, R. I.,	1856

A FARMER, and resides on a part of the estate of his father, at Scituate.

IT is to be regretted that no more of the *minutia* of this race could be rescued from oblivion; but the cause is to be found in the neglect in making records, and in the preservation of the few that were made, and in the general inattention given to a knowledge of their ancestry. These features of neglect are marked ones in the history of the earlier people of Rhode Island; but a different genealogical feeling seems to be awakening among the people of the present generation; and a disposition is being manifested to take better care of the present and future, in these matters, than has hitherto been done.

Sparce as these notes and sketches may appear to be, it is presumed they will be more or less interesting to every member of the race now living; and still more so to those who shall come after them; and probably the generous patron, under whose auspices the task has been performed, could not have bestowed a more acceptable boon upon his kindred race.

A VOICE

FROM THE DIM, DISTANT PAST.

All things haſten to decay; all fall; all come to an end. Man dieth, iron conſumeth, wood decayeth; towers crumble, ſtrong walls fall down, the roſe withereth away; the war-horſe waxeth feeble, gay trappings grow old; all the works of men's hands periſh. Thus we are taught that all die, both clerk and lay; and ſhort would be the fame of any, after death, if their hiſtory did not endure by being written in the book of the clerk.

Robert Wace's Norman Chronicles, written in A. D. 1120.

NOTE.—Henry I., was the youngest son of William the Conqueror, and third King of England, in the Norman, line. He reigned from August 5, 1100 to December 26, 1135; and this "Master Robert Wace" was his secretary; and author of some interesting Norman chronicles.

Rev. Gregory Dexter was personally acquainted with Rev. William Blackstone, from 1644 to 1675, a period of over thirty years. Blackstone's funeral was on the afternoon of May 28, 1675, old style, corresponding to June 8, now.* From the fact that they were

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* Note.—Style is Old and New, and is an important item in the science of chronology. The calender, as corrected by Julius Cæsar, after the lapse of several centuries, was found to be astronomically defective, and in 1582, Pope Gregory XIII, ordered it changed into what is now termed New Style; but it was not adopted in England (who then ruled these colonies) till September 1752. In Old Style, the year commenced on the 25th of March, and on the adoption of the New Style, with the year commencing January 1, eleven days, from September 3d to September 14th, 1752, were struck out of the calender to rectify astronomical interruptions, and render it perfect for many ages to come, by a change of one leap year in every century. From these circumstances arose the practice of double dating, which applied to all dates between January 1st and March 25th, prior to 1752, as January 1st 1668–9, which is 1669 in New Style. And in order to find the day of any month in New Style, corresponding to a

both educated clergymen—that they were otherwise noted men—that Mr. Dexter was then an active man of sixty-five—that the distance was short, and from a variety of other considerations, it is highly probable that Gregory Dexter was present, and participated in the ceremonies at the funeral of William Blackstone.

Could Mr. Dexter then have foreseen, that, two centuries from that period, himself and all his descendants would be created members of a great association, whose mites would erect

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given day of any month in Old Style, we must consider the Old Style as eleven days in advance of the New Style, and add eleven days to the date in question. For instance, the 24th of March, 1668, Old Style, corresponds to April 4th, 1669, in New Style.

Thus, Mr. Blackstone died Wednesday, May 26th, and was buried on Friday, May 28th, 1675, Old Style, and corresponding to, died Sunday, June 6th, and buried Tuesday, June 8th, 1675, in New Style,—thus, he had been buried one hundred and eighty-four years on Wednesday, June 8th, 1859, and was eighty years old at his death, thus showing him to have been born in 1595, four years earlier than Roger Williams, and fifteen years earlier than Gregory Dexter, both of whom,

a memorial to the character of that illustrious first settler of Rhode Island, how interesting to him would have been the thought!—a thought of which, his descendants now, and for centuries to come, can have some realizing conception.

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judging from a combination of strong circumstantial evidence, and expressions in records not easily accounted for in any other way, were present at his funeral; and no doubt manifested that respect which educated men, like themselves, would do, at the decease of this learned and venerable patriarch.

On page eleven, mention is made of where Gregory Dexter desired to be buried; and on page twelve something of where that lot was. In that instrument, Mr. Dexter forbids the lot thus given to his grand-children [Peleg and Isabel], being sold or exchanged without the advice or consent of his son John, their uncle; and on the old Book of Records now in the City Clerk's office, Providence, under date of 1708, may be found a record of the sale of said lot, by advice and consent of their uncle, John Dexter, but reserving the burying portion of the lot which the conveyance says is "*reserved for the burial of all the Dexters*" It would have been well to have put some limits of time to this pious reservation, or else increased the size of the lot. But we should remember that they could not look forward to us as we can look back upon them.

"Man in feebleness can plan,
But God in wisdom executes."

IMPORTANCE OF

GENEALOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS.

At no period since the first settlement of our country, has the public mind been so deeply interested in genealogical research as is now visible among the leading classes of men. On every side, individuals are to be found ransacking the homesteads of their forefathers—the National, State, County, Town, and Church archives are compelled to surrender the treasures which for centuries have been locked in their musty embrace; and in every ancient burial-place may be seen some venerable representative of "Old Mortality," brushing up and re-chiseling the fading memorials on the "Head-stones of the Covenanters." There is a glow of piety mingled in the thought that we can trace our ancestry to the May Flower, and other kindred ships, freighted with the lovers and defenders of civil and religious liberty, in the lowery morning of our country's history; and when viewed in the mirror of calm reality, there is a strong tinge of filial and laudable pride pervading these ances-

tral researches. If we find ourselves descen from noble or praiseworthy stock, there i commendable emulation in imitating their ample; and if we are descended from those more humble or less amiable positions, there a noble consolation in the fact that we are no censurable for their faults; and if we profit by their failings, learn wisdom from their example, and improve our race, we are certainly entitled to credit. Among the benefits derived from a record like this, may be mentioned the fact that when the relationship existing is thus rendered visible to the mental eye, it creates and fosters a spirit of fraternal brotherhood among many, who knew not before, that any blood kindred existed between them, thus enlarging and purifying the circle of family feeling, the results of which are beneficial; and our children and children's children, surveying and contemplating these records, will render them as familiar as household words, and begin to feel a glow of virtuous pride inspiring them to imitate the noble acts of their forefathers, and thus prepare themselves for the occupancy of respectable positions in the world. While the motives that prompt research into the knowledge of ancestry, are *usually* founded in pious instincts, there are other motives, perhaps equally honorable, found in the "*Argumentum ad pecuniam.*" The vast amount of property contin-

ly held in abeyance in Europe for want of ,htful heirship, and the frequent occurrences this department of finance, should stimulate ıen to acquire a knowledge of their race, suffi-ɔient to meet these exigencies, and thus prevent the too often mistaken and erroneous judicial results; and, because a history of a family, carefully prepared, and without any reference to such heirship, would have ten-fold more weight in the Courts of Law, than any hasty production prepared expressly for such emergency. These few brief hints, being all we here find room for, may serve to invite more minute attention to the important uses of genealogical investigations.

And now, in conclusion, the Author tenders his congratulations to each and every living and unborn member of this Race; and on them all, invokes the spirit of benediction.

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